

Selectmen/Assessor's Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2014

Board Present: Greg Grotton, Lyle Cramer, Elmer Savage and James Justice.

Absent: Sara Moore.

Also Present: Jay Feyler, Jim Murphy, Doris Vertz and Joseph Patricia.

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to Order:** by Chairman at 6:30PM.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all who wished.
3. **Public Comment:** there was none.
4. **Approve minutes of September 16, 2014:** Motion by James Justice to approve September 16, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.
5. **Abatement, Jim Murphy Assessor:** Assessor Agent Murphy reported he neglected to properly transfer the date from the real estate module to the billing module of the system on the following:

Scott, Ralph and Carol, Omitted Veterans Exemption \$95.40
Becker, Dennis R. & Sylvia D, Omitted Veterans Exemption \$95.40
Widdecomb, Stephen SR & Christine, Omitted Homestead Exemption \$159.00
Ledger, Benjamin R. Omitted Homestead Exemption \$159.00
Tombro, Joseph A, Omitted Homestead Exemption \$159.00
Zalubski, William K, Omitted Homestead Exemption \$159.00
Motion by Lyle Cramer to approve the above Abatements presented by our Assessor for a total of \$826.80. Seconded by Jim Justice. Unanimous.

Tree Growth Penalty:

R. A, Bird & Semerjian, E.Y; Trustees request removal of 2.1 acres of Tree Growth Classified Property in the amount of \$554.82.
Motion by Elmer Savage to approve Tree Growth Classified Property.
Seconded by Jim Justice. Unanimous.

Municipal Valuation return is a report detailing what the Commitment is number of Veterans, Homesteads, Open Space, and Farm Space etc. This begins the 2016 State Valuation.

Motion by Lyle Cramer to approve the Municipal Valuation return.
Seconded by Jim Justice. Unanimous.

6. Set dates for TM evaluation: Board set Tues. October 14th and Tues. October 28th at 6:00PM.

7. Reports from attendees of the MMA Convention: Lyle reported in all his prior years at Conventions this was one of the best he's seen. All the presentations except for the major speakers are people who are basically doing their work and the General Speakers were very good. One of the meetings Lyle went to was Managing a Meeting and how to do it appropriately. The other was how to evaluate your Town Manager, what you look at and what do you not look at. The concept from that meeting was don't lean toward evaluations where you check a ratings scale, they say it should not be like a report card because you spend all your time with what's gone over the dam and you're not going to change that. The most productive part of that evaluation is to take a look at how we're going to work together for the next year. Lyle would like to see the Board work together with the Town Manager on developing goals for the next year. Jay reported on a meeting he attended talking about collaboration among the Towns, Fire Departments and Ambulance Departments. It's tough to get the smaller Towns to collaborate and give up local control.

8. Sign Treasurers Warrant dated October 8, 2014: Motion by Lyle Cramer to sign Treasurer's Warrant dated October 8, 2014. Seconded by James Justice. Unanimous.

9. Other Business: there was none.

10. Town Manager's Report: Town Attorney is working on the contract with Time Warner. The dock at Ayer Park will be coming out within the next week. Davis Rd. Construction is expected to begin in a week to 10 days. Letters will be going out tomorrow to all the residents on Davis requesting their email address. The contractor will send out notices to all those who provide their emails which part of the road is going to be worked on and closed the following day. The contractor will send the list

to Jay and we'll put it on the website. The road will be closed for many hours of the day and Chris will have the emergency radios to let Dispatch know what section of the road is closed so Fire and Ambulance will know that. We expect the walls to be poured in a week to ten days for the Salt/Sand shed. One thing we have to do regarding the public coming up and hanging out, it technically is a construction zone there's a contractor there and we're still actively working there. We're going to take the responsibility for posting the site and telling the people they can't sit there or wander around the place because if OSHA comes in they are going to come after us. We're going to be really strict about this we have asked the contractor to ask these people to move. It's a major fine to have them in there without safety stuff on.

11. Selectmen's Report: Lyle said looking back in hindsight he thinks we made a mistake in some ways the way we handled the \$100,000 we put in for road construction. One of his concerns is the amount of money we spend to get so little in return. The other issue is we have spread this out over five years so that a lot of what we do is going to have to be done five times. Like the road closure discussion tonight if we did it all in one stretch it wouldn't be as disjointed. If we did it in one stretch we would have to close the road down one time instead of five times spread over five years. One of the ways we can go back and maybe correct this is and it makes more sense to finance it is to ask for a bond to get that expense we are going to have over the next four years borrow that money and do the whole thing at once. Then we don't have to worry about writing five contracts to go out to bid and go through the bid process. All these things cost money to do each time. He thinks we should build it once and it will be cheaper in the end. The cost savings will more than equal the interest we pay on the bond. Greg agrees with Lyle and suggests this year in the budget process that we have some serious discussion about it with the possibility of doing it. We should propose this as an alternative Lyle said the final decision is in the Town's hands when they vote here at Town Meeting. Jim reported he measured 15ft. for the railing we need outside the pizza shop. For future planning he thinks we should do something with the sidewalk by The Badger, it looks like a dump. Greg asked the status on the Ambulance Director. Jay said we will be advertising shortly. Greg reported the Town of Warren has created an EMS Study Committee and would like to have a joint meeting with the surrounding Towns to address the shortage of ambulance volunteers etc. The EMS Summit is scheduled for Wednesday October 22nd. 7PM at the Warren Town Office.

12. **Future Agenda Items:** there was none.

13. **Adjourn:** Motion by James Justice to adjourn at 7:30PM. Seconded by Lyle Cramer. Unanimous.

These minutes were approved on October 21, 2014 with the following amendments.